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May 2, 2007

Representative Jeff Mayes
Agriculture Committee Chair
S1285 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Subject: Bill SB350

Dear Representative Mayes,

The Animal Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan ("ALS") was formed to monitor legal issues associated with animals and their owners. Our purpose includes advocacy of responsible, humane, and ethical management and care of animals. We express our support for the tax check-off bill SB350. This proposed legislation, if enacted, would greatly benefit both the citizens of Michigan and their companion animals.

In summary, as you are aware, the subject bill creates a welfare fund for Companion Animals. Funding originates through voluntary income tax contributions. The funding will be used to sponsor spay/neuter and adoption initiatives and educational programs regarding the humane treatment of animals. Obviously, these programs will benefit Companion Animals. In addition, our citizenry will experience a great benefit, especially from the sponsored educational programs.

As you may be aware, a direct link exists between violence against animals and domestic violence. Studies have shown that in 88% of the homes where abuse and neglect are perpetrated against children, pets are likewise neglected and abused. Educational programs sponsored by this legislation will be conducted in schools, community centers, etc., and it will raise general awareness of this issue in the community. Such awareness will promote early intervention and rehabilitation of violent homes.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to these matters. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned should you require additional information or assistance in this or any other animal law matter.

Sincerely,



Anna Rose Stern
Animal Law Section, Chair-Elect

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